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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP  
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY El Salvador

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SUBJECT Interview with Colonel Osmin Aguirre

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. Colonel Osmin Aguirre y Salinas of El Salvador in a private interview on 17 October declared his candidacy for the presidency of El Salvador and bitterly criticized the activities of the present government.
2. Although there are as yet no truly organized political parties, Aguirre said that political lines were being drawn and that four groups could be distinguished: a) Leftists, b) Liberals, c) President Castaneda's, d) Aguirre's. In describing this alignment, Aguirre has noticeably placed himself to the far right. Aguirre said the Leftists are still disunited, but that many are being taken in by Castaneda's group through the machinations of Adolfo Perez Menendez and Dr. Oliverio C. Valle. The Communists will also support Castaneda, according to Aguirre, since they feel they could go further with Castaneda than with a strong man like himself. Outside of these elements, Castaneda has only his own clique, and not even a large majority of government employees will support him, in Aguirre's estimation.
3. Aguirre promised trouble if Castaneda tries by any means to perpetuate himself in power. He stated that there would be no violence in the coming year, and that any trouble that might occur would be chargeable to President Castaneda himself.

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